

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for configuring a target computer system, the method
2 comprising
3 creating an image of a first plurality of software components;
4 storing the image onto the target computer system;
5 determining additional software components to be stored onto the
6 target computer system;
7 storing the additional software components by using a predefined
8 module.
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10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein a module includes at least a
11 portion of setup information provided by a manufacturer of a first software
12 component associated with a first module.
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14 3. The method of claim 1, wherein a module includes at least a
15 portion of a compressed software component.
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17 4. The method of claim 3, wherein a module includes at least a
18 portion of a PAC file.
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20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the image includes a foundation
21 image.
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23 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the image includes a recovery
24 image.
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26 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising
27 storing a plurality of data files, wherein a data file includes system
28 specific configuration information.

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30 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the data files are stored in a
31 common directory.

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33 9. The method of claim 7, wherein a code field is used to indicate
34 what images can be loaded onto a particular system.

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36 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising
37 creating an initialization file;
38 copying a recovery image to a temporary location;
39 restoring the recovery image to a first partition from a temporary
40 location;
41 copying the recovery image from the first partition to a temporary
42 location;
43 copying a foundation image to the first partition via a network;
44 restoring the foundation image to a second partition;
45 copying permanent modules to the first partition;
46 copying a data file to the first partition;
47 copying temporary modules to the first partition;
48 copying a module including at least a portion of a software component
49 to the first partition;
50 executing one or more modules; and
51 deleting modules from the first partition.

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53 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising
54 storing a process for recovering an initial installation.

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56 12. An apparatus for configuring a target computer system, the
57 apparatus comprising
58 a machine-readable medium including
59 one or more instructions for creating an image of a first plurality of
60 software components;
61 one or more instructions for storing the image onto the target computer
62 system;
63 one or more instructions for determining additional software
64 components to be stored onto the target computer system; and
65 one or more instructions for storing the additional software components
66 by using a predefined module.

67
68 13. A machine-readable medium including
69 one or more instructions for creating an image of a first plurality of
70 software components;
71 one or more instructions for storing the image onto the target computer
72 system;
73 one or more instructions for determining additional software
74 components to be stored onto the target computer system; and
75 one or more instructions for storing the additional software components
76 by using a predefined module.

77
78 14. An apparatus for configuring a target computer system, the
79 apparatus comprising
80 means for creating an image of a first plurality of software components;
81 means for storing the image onto the target computer system;
82 means for determining additional software components to be stored
83 onto the target computer system; and
84 means for storing the additional software components by using a
85 predefined module.

86 15. A method for recovering software components, the method
87 comprising
88 installing at least a portion of a foundation image;
89 selectively allowing a user to install a software component from a third-
90 party installation medium; and
91 selectively allowing a user to install a software component from a
92 secondary file.
93
94 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the secondary file includes a
95 PAC file.